

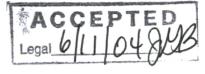


#### **BEFORE**

### THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2004-116-C



Re: Application of Volo Communications of South Carolina for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Local Based and Resold Local Exchange Services to Both Business and Carrier Customers Throughout the State, Excluding Rural Areas

**STIPULATION** 

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attachment "A" for list of companies) and Volo Communications of South Carolina, Inc. ("Volo Communications") hereby enter into the following stipulations. As a consequence of these stipulations and conditions, SCTC does not oppose Volo Communications' Application. SCTC and Volo Communications stipulate and agree as follows:

- 1. SCTC does not oppose the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Volo Communications, provided the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") makes the necessary findings to justify granting of such a certificate, and provided the conditions contained within this stipulation are met.
- 2. Volo Communications stipulates and agrees that any Certificate which may be granted will authorize Volo Communications to provide service only to customers located in non-rural local exchange company ("LEC") service areas of South Carolina, except as provided herein.
- 3. Volo Communications stipulates that it is not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas.

- 4. Volo Communications stipulates and agrees that it will not provide any local service, by its own facilities or otherwise, to any customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, unless and until Volo Communications provides such rural incumbent LEC and the Commission with written notice of its intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the intended service. During such notice period, the rural incumbent LEC will have the opportunity to petition the Commission to exercise all rights afforded it under Federal and State law. Also, Volo Communications acknowledges that the Commission may suspend the intended date for service in rural LEC territory for ninety (90) days while the Commission conducts any proceeding incident to the Petition or upon the Commission's own Motion, provided that the Commission can further suspend the implementation date upon showing of good cause.
- 5. Volo Communications stipulates and agrees that, if Volo Communications gives notice that it intends to serve a customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, and either (a) the Commission receives a Petition from the rural incumbent LEC to exercise its rights under Federal or State law within such 30-day period, or (b) the Commission institutes a proceeding of its own, then Volo Communications will not provide service to any customer located within the service area in question without prior and further Commission approval.
- 6. Volo Communications acknowledges that any right which it may have or acquire to serve a rural telephone company service area in South Carolina is subject to the conditions contained herein, and to any future policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to such proposed service which the Commission may implement, so long as such policies, procedures, and guidelines do not conflict with Federal or State law.
- 7. The parties stipulate and agree that all rights under Federal and State law are reserved to the rural incumbent LECs and Volo Communications, and this Stipulation in no way suspends or adversely affects such rights, including any exemptions, suspensions, or modifications to which they

may be entitled.

- 8. Volo Communications agrees to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate, to the extent it may be required to do so by the Commission, in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates.
- 9. Volo Communications hereby amends its application and its prefiled testimony in this docket to the extent necessary to conform with this Stipulation.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this 10th day of 9004.

Volo Communications of South Carolina, Inc.:

South Carolina Telephone Coalition:

M. John Bowen, Jr.

Margaret M. Fox

McNair Law Firm, P.A.

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Columbia, South Carolina 29211

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Attorneys for the South Carolina Telephone Coalition

#### ATTACHMENT A

## South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies for Purposes of Local Service Stipulation

ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc.

Chesnee Telephone Company

Chester Telephone Company

Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Ft. Mill Telephone Company

Home Telephone Company, Inc.

Lancaster Telephone Company

Lockhart Telephone Company

McClellanville Telephone Company

Norway Telephone Company

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Pond Branch Telephone Company

Ridgeway Telephone Company

Rock Hill Telephone Company

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

St. Stephen Telephone Company

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Williston Telephone Company



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I, ElizaBeth A. Blitch, do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the foregoing Stipulation upon the following party of record by causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid to:

John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A. Post Office Box 2285 Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

ElizaBeth A. Blitch, Paralegal McNair Law Firm, P.A.

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Columbia, South Carolina 29211

(803) 799-9800

June 10, 2004

Columbia, South Carolina